

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A cabinet spacer to be applied to cabinets of the type used in refrigerators or freezers, presenting a rear face to be maintained at a certain minimum distance from an adjacent wall (P), characterized in that it comprises comprising:

an elongated body (10) having a free end (11), and a mounting end (12), coupled to the cabinet (1) and which is automatically displaced from an inoperative position, retracted close to the cabinet (1) by actuation of a package portion (E) applied to the latter, to an operative position, in which the mounting end (12) is maintained seated on the cabinet (1) and the free end (11) projecting beyond the rear face of the cabinet (1), so as to be seated against an adjacent wall (P), guaranteeing a minimum distance of the cabinet (1) in relation to said wall (P).

2. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the displacement of the elongated body (10) from the inoperative position to the operative position is made by the action of gravity, from the moment in which the package portion stops actuating on the elongated body (10).

3. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the elongated body (10), when in the inoperative position, is longitudinally seated against the cabinet (1) and maintained with its free end (11) above the mounting end (12).

4. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 3, characterized in that wherein the elongated body (10) has its the mounting end (12) eccentrically coupled to the cabinet (1), in order to be displaced angularly downwardly from the inoperative position to the operative position.

5. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 4, characterized in that wherein the mounting end (12) incorporates a small L-shaped projection (13), with a basic leg (13a) projecting to one of the sides of the elongated body (10) and a free leg (13b) projecting from the basic leg (13a) beyond the mounting end and having an end edge retained in the cabinet (1).

6. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the end edge of the basic leg (13a) of the small L-shaped projection (13) incorporates a bar (14) with a width that is larger than that of the small projection (13), the latter being loosely mounted through a window (3) provided in a rear wall portion (2) of the cabinet (1), said bar (14) presenting a width that is larger than that of the window (3) and being maintained seated against the internal face of said rear wall portion (2) of the cabinet (1) in both operational positions of the elongated body (10).

7. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the basic leg (13a) of the small projection (13) is seated on a lower edge of the window (3) when the elongated body (10) is in the inoperative position, while the free leg (13b) of the small projection (13) is seated against the lower edge of the window (3) when the elongated body is displaced to the operative position.

8. (Currently amended) The cabinet spacer as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the elongated body (10) presents, at least in its mounting end (12), a pair of lateral projections (17) which impart to the elongated body (10) a width that is larger than the width of the window (3) and which are seated against the rear wall portion (2).